

From: Margaret Schlosser
To: Department of Justice
Date: 1/13/02 12:20pm
Subject: Microsoft attempts to affect the trial

Having just become aware of the email message by which Microsoft hopes to sway the Department of Justice - via the public comment period, I certainly hope that anyone analyzing the public comments takes this underhanded activity into account.

> For several months, I have been subscribed to (spying upon?) a mailing
> list called "Freedom to Innovate". The name of the list is particularly
> amusing since the purpose of the mailing list is to promote the position
> of Microsoft in various anti-trust motions in our courts.
>
> I have copied today's "Freedom to Innovate" message below. Aside from
> its humorous aspect, it includes information about how to submit public
> comment to the Department of Justice. So, if you have opinions on how
> Microsoft has affected your "freedom to innovate", you may wish to
> correspond with the Justice department on the topic.
>
> -- joe
>
> ==-=- Microsoft message follows -=-==
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>
> A FINFlash Alert: The DOJ wants to hear from YOU!
>
> For nearly four years, your voice has been instrumental in the debate
> over the freedom to innovate. Tens of thousands of concerned citizens
> have communicated to their public officials about whether the Microsoft
> case should be settled or further litigated. Despite the aggressive
> lobbying efforts of a few of Microsofts competitors, the federal
> government and nine states finally reached a comprehensive agreement
> with Microsoft to address the reduced liability found in the Court of
> Appeals ruling. This settlement is tough, but reasonable and fair to
> all parties involved. Consumers overwhelmingly agree that settlement
> is good for them, the industry and the American economy.
>
> However, this settlement is not guaranteed, and your voice is more
> important than ever.
>
> The law (officially called the Tunney Act) requires a public comment
> period between now and January 28th after which the District Court will
> determine whether the settlement is in the public interest.
> Unfortunately, a few special interests are attempting to use this review
> period to derail the settlement and prolong this litigation even in the
> midst of uncertain economic times. The last thing the American economy
> needs is more litigation that benefits only a few wealthy competitors

> and stifles innovation.
>
> Dont let these special interests defeat the public interest.
>
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>
> -==-= End Microsoft message -==-=

This is but a small sample of the unsavory practices Microsoft employs. If the proposed settlement takes place, Microsoft will have won and at the same time solidified its position and be well on the way to its goal of complete domination of anything having to do with computers or the Internet.

Please do not let this settlement be for nothing, which it will if it proceeds as now projected. Should the DOJ in the future, find that the presently proposed settlement did more harm than good (as I am firmly convinced it will) it will be far too late for any remedy and future anti-trust actions will have been forever compromised. The Microsoft 'model' will encourage other companies to follow their lead and so escape any 'punishment'.

Just one question - I wish someone could explain to me just WHAT so-called 'innovations' Microsoft has ever been responsible for? Microsoft merely adapts others work and proceeds to make it Microsoft specific, thereby denying use of it to others by attempting to make its version the defacto default.

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